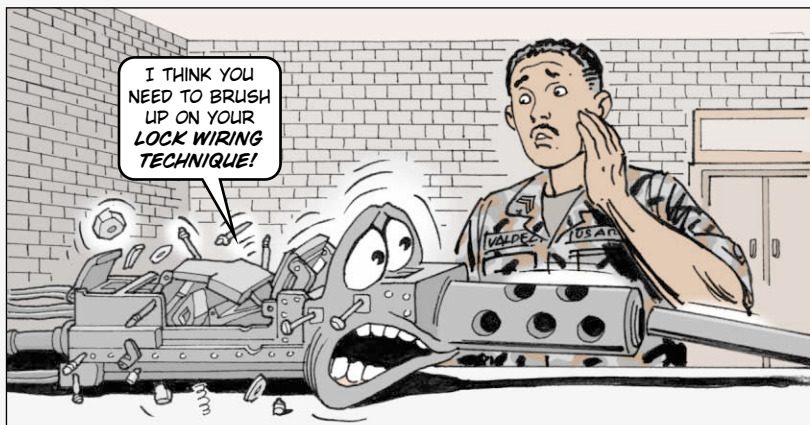


LOCKED TO STAY LOCKED



Dear Editor,

As contractors who work exclusively with small arms, we notice some common mistakes armorers make when lock-wiring parts. Of course, if a screw or nut isn't lock wired correctly, a weapon can come apart during firing.

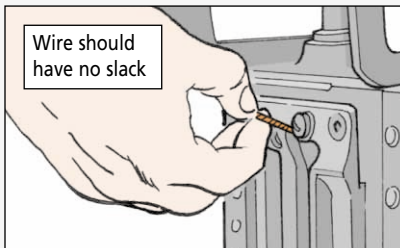
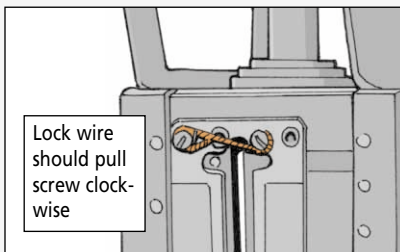
A major problem is using the wrong wire. The lock wire you find around most motor pools isn't strong enough. Use the wire called out in the expendable supplies at the back of each weapon's TM. If none is called out, NSN 9505-00-293-4208 brings wire that is good for most lock wiring chores.

Another mistake is not using lacing pliers. Trying to lock wire a screw with needle nose pliers won't work. Armorers must use the lacing pliers in the small arms tool kit.

Another problem is not routing the wire in the correct direction. The wire should pull the screw clockwise so that the screw can't work loose.

Finally, a common mistake is leaving slack in the wire. The wire should be pulled as tight as possible. If you leave slack, the screw can loosen.

Robert Henson
Brant Ratliff
Ft Campbell, KY



From the desk of the Editor

Your tips will be the key to locking up locking wire problems. Good job!